

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

A. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-22 are again presented in the case for continued prosecution.

B. DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTIONS

1. Commonly-Assigned U.S. Patent Nos. 6,638,499, 6,395,266 and 6,153,655

The Assignee of the entire interest submits herewith terminal disclaimer with the required fees. It is urged that the obviousness double patenting rejections be removed.

2. US 6,395,266 is Commonly Owned

Without admitting or denying that the '266 patent constitutes a valid reference under 35 USC §102 and/or §103, Applicants provide herewith a copy of the Assignment corresponding thereto which was recorded in the USPTO along with that recorded for the present application. It is not believed that the Examiner has requested similar information concerning U.S. Patent Nos. 6,638,499 and 6,153,655. If needed, Applicants can provide the Examiner with the Assignment information.

C. FEES

This response is being filed with a Petition for a One Month Extension of Time and required fee. No further fee is believed to be due. If, on the other hand, it is determined that any further fees are due or any overpayment has been made, the Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to debit or credit such sum to deposit account 02-2275. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3), please treat this and any concurrent or future reply in this application that requires a petition for an extension of time for its timely submission as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time. The fee associated therewith is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-2275.